

## **Columbia County Water and Sewerage System 2003 Water Quality Report**

### **A Job Well Done!**

Each year water systems throughout the state must give to their customers a report on the quality of their drinking water. We here at the Columbia County Water Dept. (ID # CS0730000) are pleased to announce that not only have our drinking water facilities met or exceeded the standards set forth by the EPA, but they have also met the standards set forth by the Georgia Water Pollution Control Association for the Annual Gold Award. (The Gold Awards are given to deserving facilities in recognition of their continual efforts to meet or exceed the standards set forth by State and Federal Laws without having a single MCL violation). Congratulations to our Drinking Water Facilities for...**A Job Well Done!**

This annual Water Quality Report provides you with important information about your tap water. Topics covered include source water information, numerical values of detected finished water quality parameters, definitions of terms, and health facts. For more information about the CCWSS, contact the Water Laboratory Manager Rodney Silvey at (706) 868-3460 or the Water Treatment Manager John Maldonado at (706)-860-2587. The Public Works Committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm at the County Government Complex conference room on Ronald Reagan Drive in Evans.

### **Health Facts**

For health reasons the EPA has prescribed regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants, potential health effects, and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### **Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:**

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wild- life

Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm run-off, industrial or domestic waste discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off, and residential uses

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **Water Sources**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

**Columbia County** withdraws up to thirty-one million gallons per day of surface water from the Savannah River that is pumped to the Jim Blanchard Water Treatment Facility on Point Comfort Road. An additional one to eight million gallons per day of surface water are withdrawn from the Clark Hill Reservoir and treated at the Clark Hill Water Treatment Facility on Highway 221.

#### **Treatment Plant Locations**

